



FEMA

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

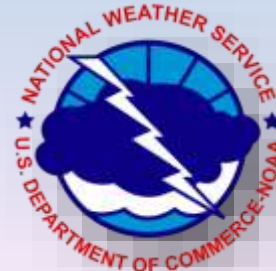
Friday, March 23, 2018
Issued: 0800 CT

Day 1 Weather Threats: Elevated to Extremely Critical Fire Weather Conditions across E NM, South Plains, TX and OK Panhandles to across the Upper Trans-Pecos.

Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS Rivers.

Minor river flooding continues in LA and E AR.

National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX



Prepared by: **Chris McKinney**
817-978-1100 x 147

Key Points



Today through Tuesday

- Elevated to Extremely Critical Fire Weather conditions possible today across E NM, South Plains, TX and OK Panhandles to across the Guadalupe Mountains. Red Flag Warnings are in effect.
- A few strong to severe storms possible Sunday from S-Cntrl OK through Central TX
- Strong to severe thunderstorms possible Monday and Tuesday from SW TX into central OK.
- Heavy rainfall possible Tuesday into mid week for NE TX, NW LA, E OK, and NW AR.

River Flood Status

- The Lower Mississippi River has crested and all locations above Reserve, LA are falling.
- The Atchafalaya River continues a flat crest at Morgan City, LA and the river has crested and is falling between Simmesport, LA to Butte La Rose, LA.
- Significant falls continue this week for the lower Mississippi River. Vicksburg, MS through Reserve, LA will remain above flood stage for the next one to two weeks. All other locations are forecast to go below flood stage by the end of the weekend.
- Due to the operation of the Bonnet Carre spillway, the gauge at Reserve, LA will continue to show minor flooding levels until the spillway is closed. This location should start to recede in the next week.
- The long range weather models are showing another round of heavy rain for mid to late next week, in the Mississippi, Tennessee and Ohio Valleys. Additional rises can be expected on portions of the middle Mississippi River and elevated water levels will remain on the lower Mississippi River through April.

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Mar 23, 2018 - Mar 27, 2018

DAY / THREAT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Strong/Severe Storms			S-Cntrl OK, Cntrl TX	S central OK/N central-S central TX	SW TX/ Cen/N Cen TX
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding					NE TX/ E OK/ NW AR
Fire Weather	NE NM/South Plains/TX & OK Panhandles/ Upper Trans-Pecos	E NM/South Plains/TX & OK Panhandles/ Upper Trans-Pecos	E NM/South Plains/TX & OK Panhandles/ Upper Trans-Pecos	E NM/South Plains/TX & OK Panhandles/ Upper Trans-Pecos	E NM/South Plains/TX & OK Panhandles/ Guadalupe Mtns.
Winter					
River Flooding	LA				
	LA/E AR				

	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.

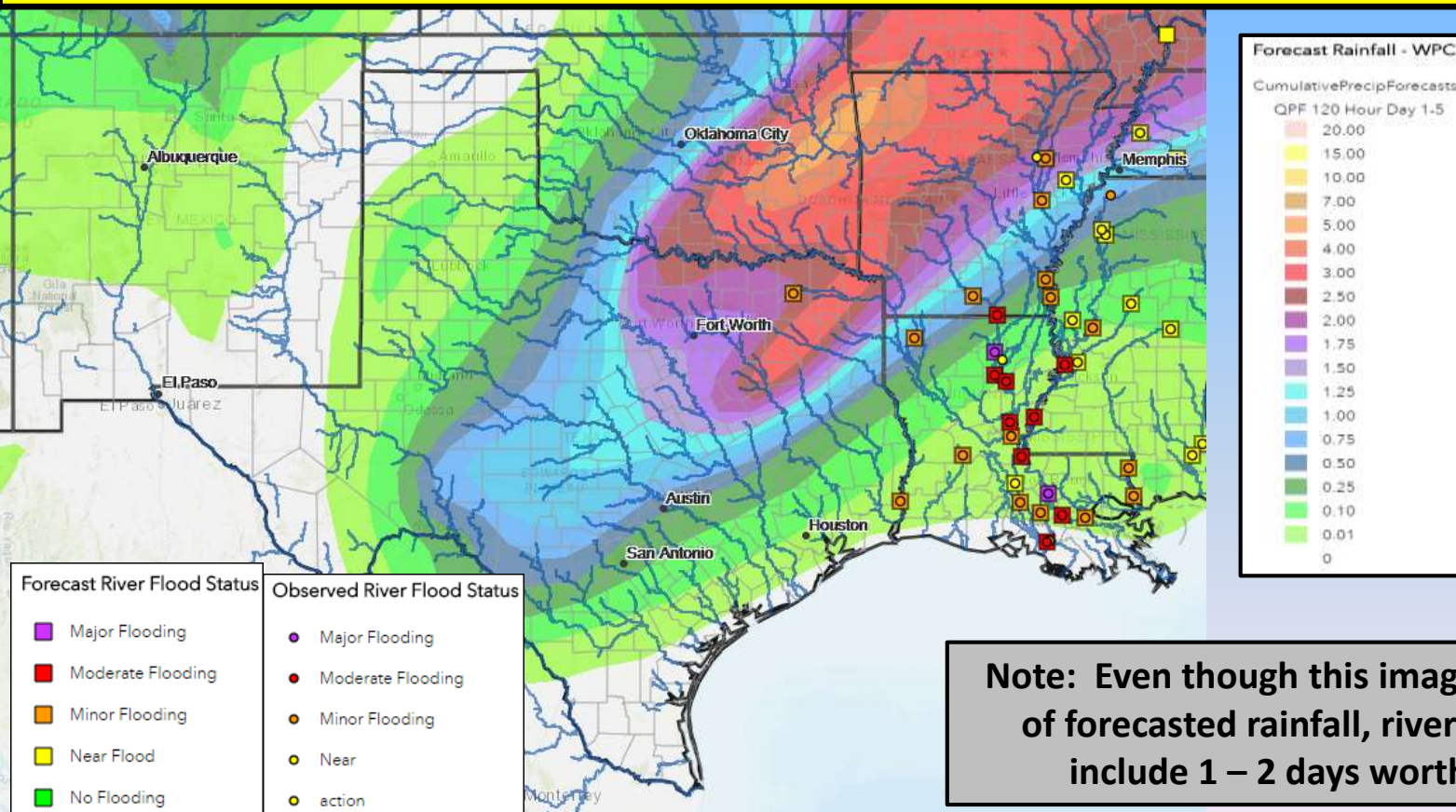


5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita and Mississippi Rivers in LA:

- **The Lower Mississippi River has crested and all locations above Reserve, LA are falling. The water levels should gradually recede.**
- **The Atchafalaya River continued to crest at Morgan City, LA and the river has crested and is falling between Simmesport, LA to Butte La Rose, LA**
- **Due to the operations of the Bonnet Carre spillway the stage at Reserve, LA will continue to fluctuate around minor flood stage until the spillways is closed.**

Minor flooding continues in LA and E AR.



Note: Even though this image displays 5 days of forecasted rainfall, river forecasts only include 1 – 2 days worth of rainfall.

See <http://water.weather.gov/ahps> for the latest on river flooding



Mississippi River Flood Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 22, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

f NWSLMRFC

twitter @NWSLMRFC

MS River at Memphis, TN

Current Stage: 25.1'

Forecast:  Below Flood Stage

MS River at Helena, AR

Current: 39.5'

Forecast:  Below Flood Stage

MS River at Greenville, MS

Current: 52.1' **MODERATE Flood Stage (F.S.)**

Forecast:  Below Flood Stage
Sun Mar 25

MS River at Red River Landing, LA

Current: 60.8' **MODERATE Flood Stage (F.S.)**

Forecast:  Crested


MS River at Baton Rouge, LA

Current: 43.2' **MAJOR Flood Stage (F.S.)**

Forecast:  Crested


MS River at Tunica, MS

Current: 39.5'

Forecast:  Below Flood Stage

MS River at Arkansas City, AR

Current: 39.8' **MINOR Flood Stage (F.S.)**

Forecast:  Below Flood Stage
Sat Mar 24


MS River at Vicksburg, MS

Current: 48.8' **MODERATE Flood Stage (F.S.)**

Forecast:  Below Flood Stage
Tue Mar 27

MS River at Natchez, MS

Current: 58.5' **MODERATE Flood Stage (F.S.)**

Forecast:  Below Flood Stage
Thu Mar 29

MS River at New Orleans, LA

Current: 16.9'

Cresting with minor
fluctuations



Forecast Based on Bonnet Carré Operation



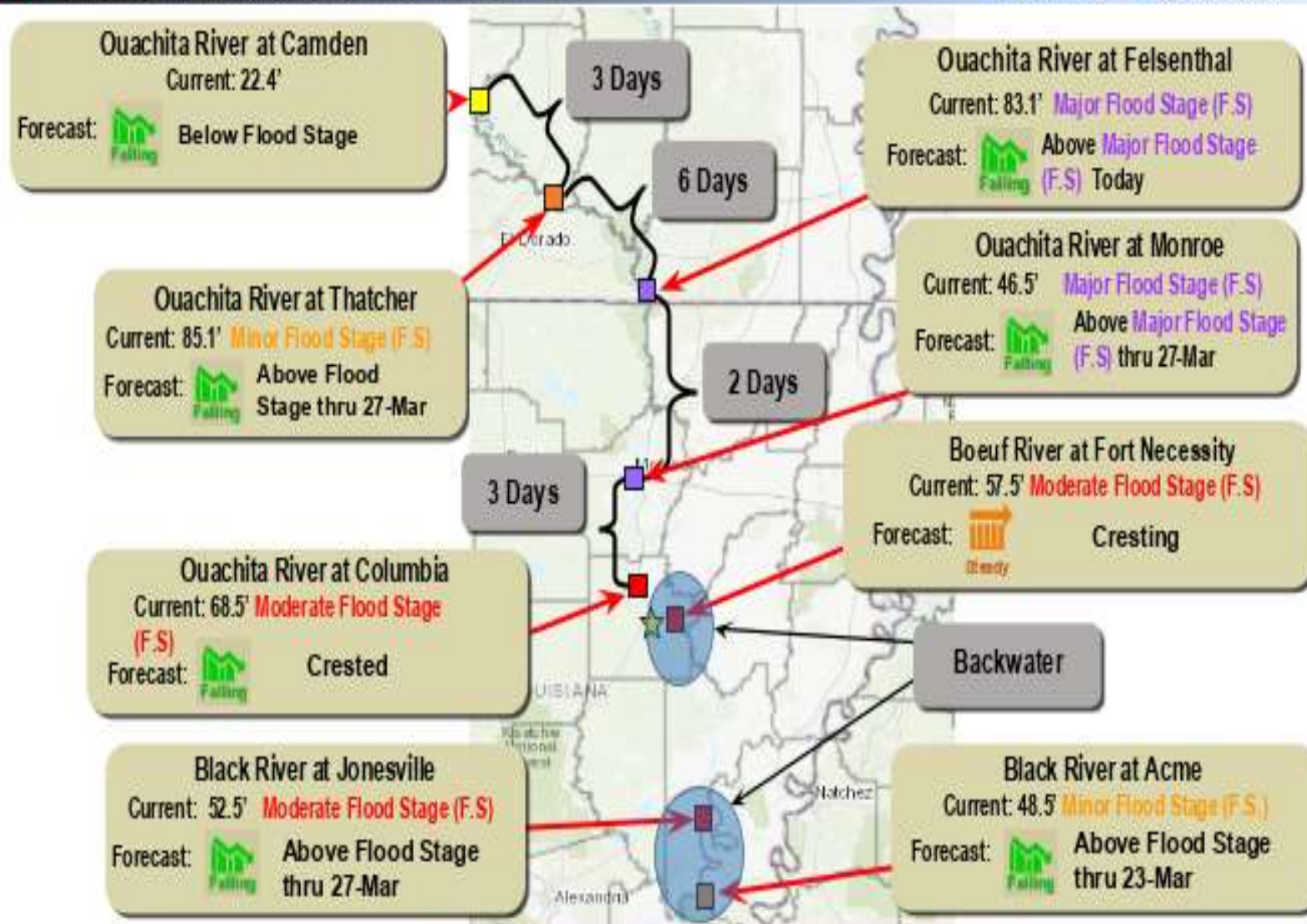
Ouachita River Flood Watch

Crests and LMRFEC forecasts
produced morning of March 22, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC





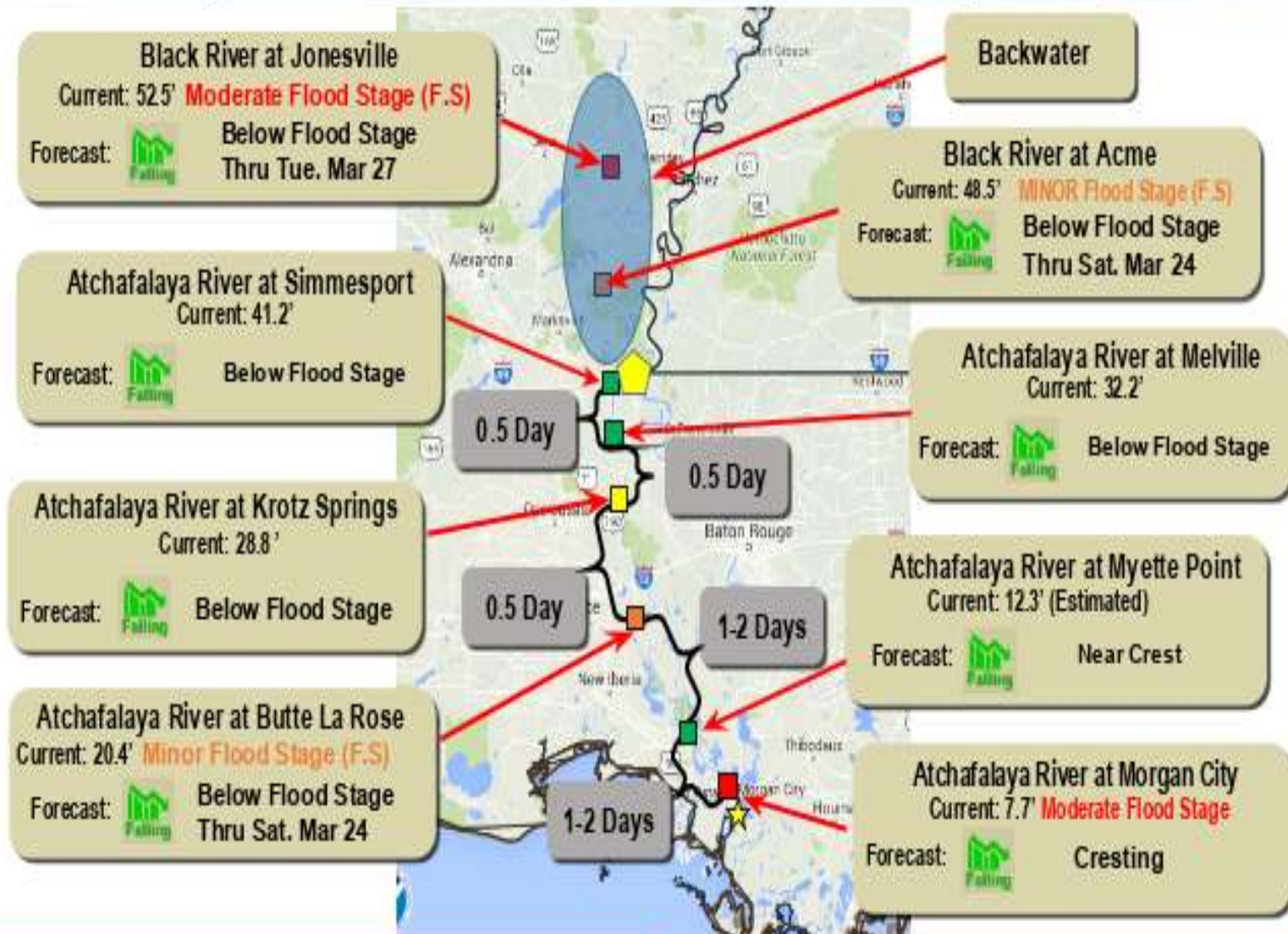
Atchafalaya River Flood Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 22, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

f NWSLMRFC

🐦 @NWSLMRFC

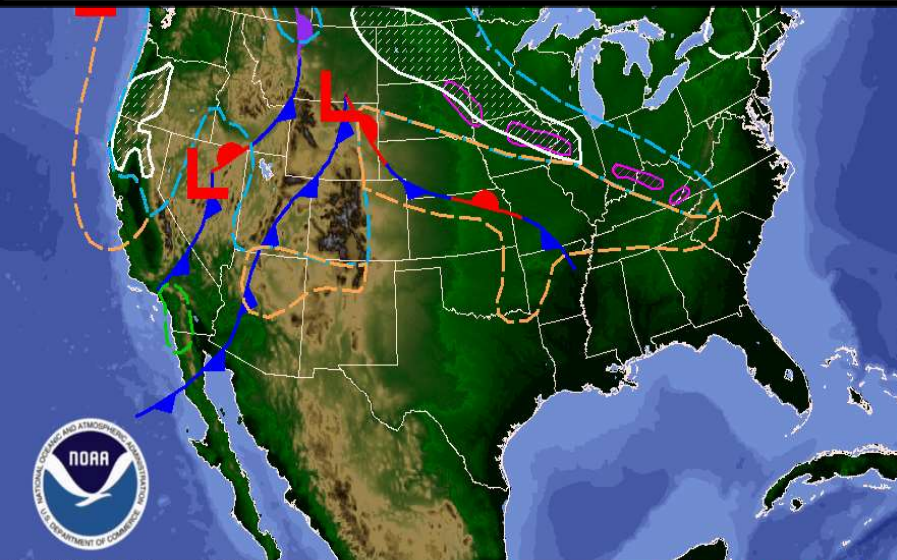


🏠 Old River Control Structure

★ Crest Today

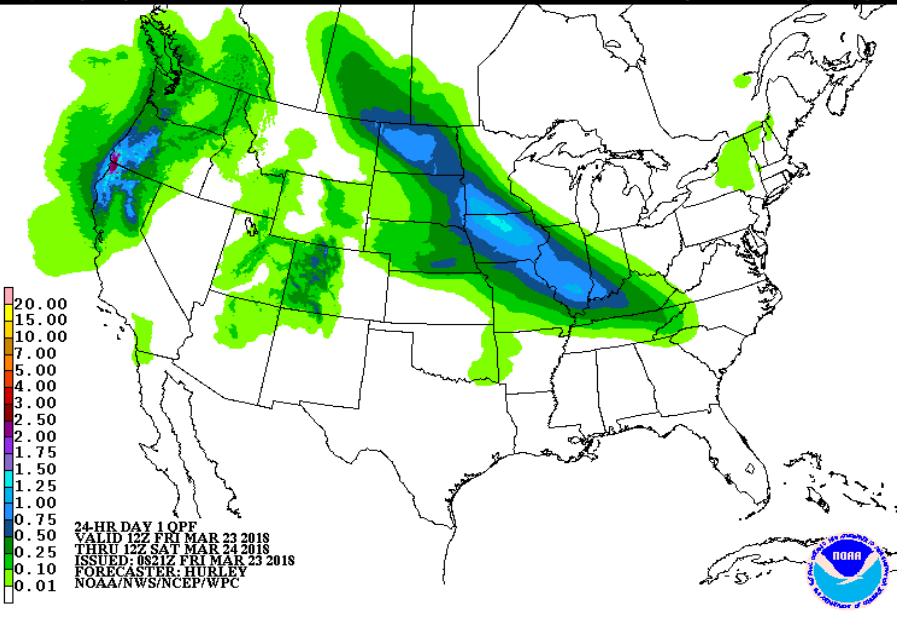
Backwater - Water moving upstream from Old River Control Structure

Today's Weather



Day 1 National Forecast Chart
Valid Fri, Mar 23, 2018, issued 4:57 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

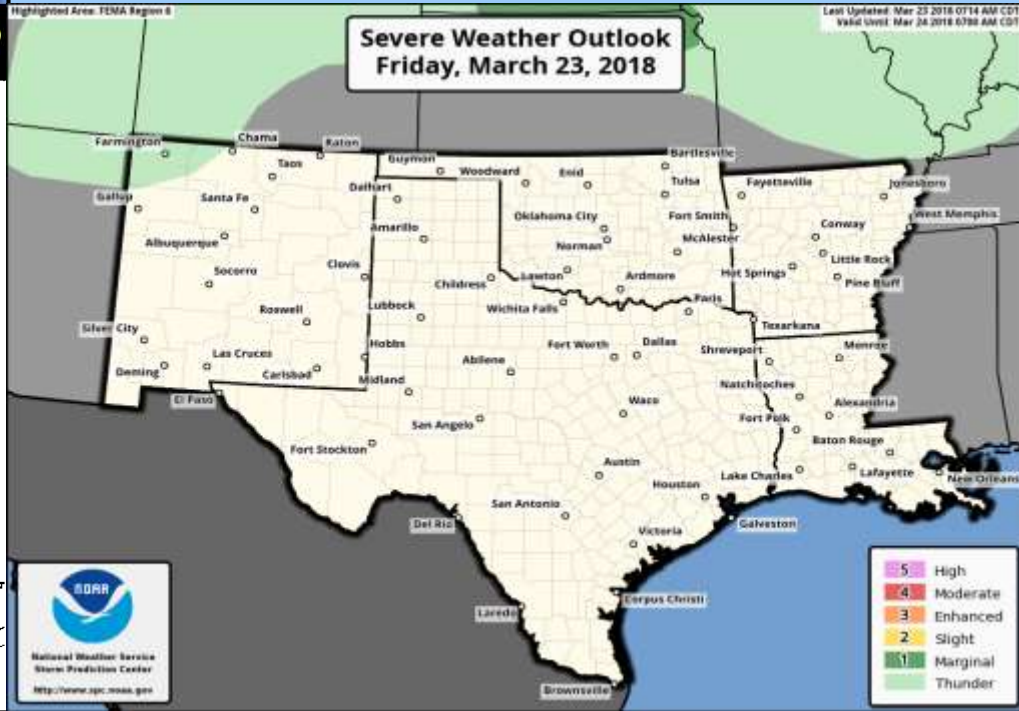
Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



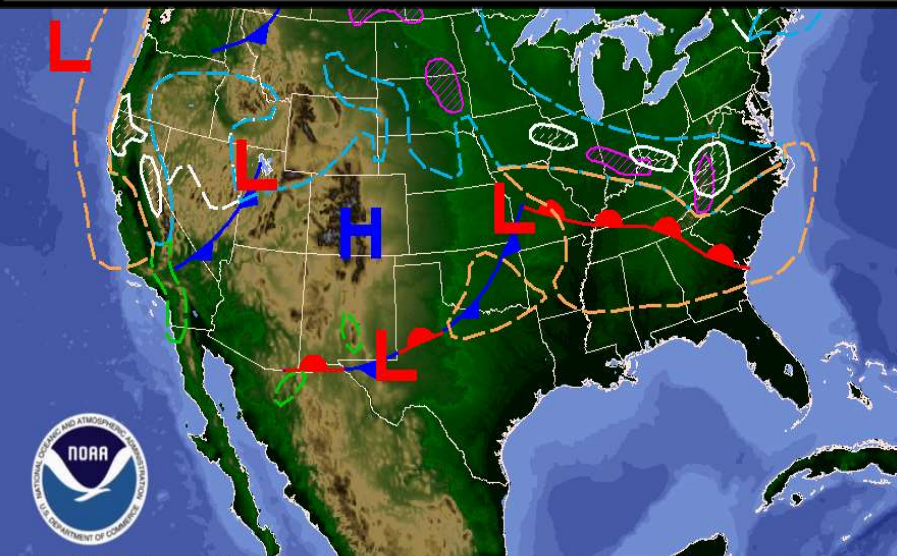
Extreme Fire Weather conditions across E NM, South Plains, TX & OK Panhandles to across the Upper Trans-Pecos.

Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS River.

Minor flooding continues in LA and E AR.



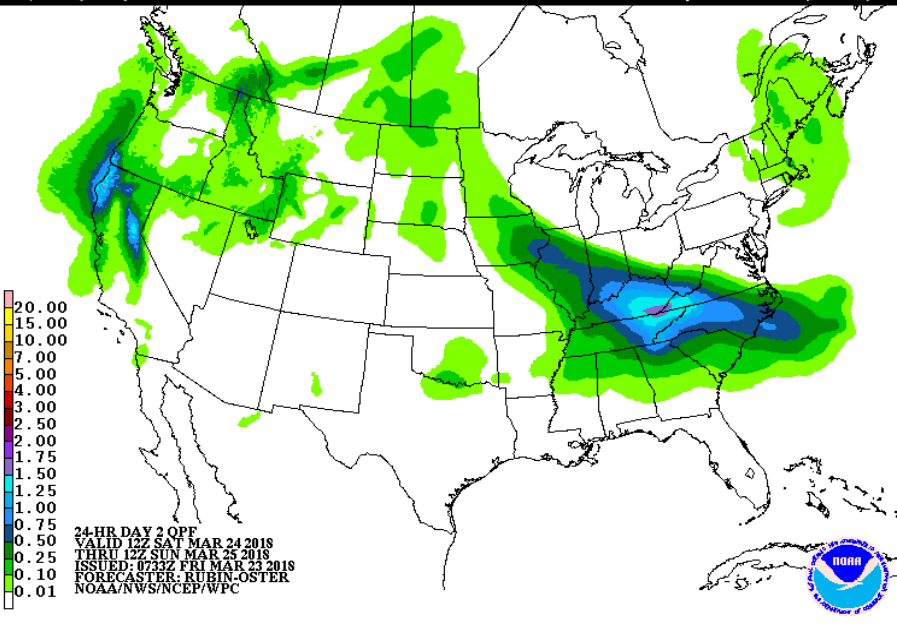
Tomorrow's Weather



Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Mar 24, 2018, issued 5:08 AM EDT Fri, Mar 23, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



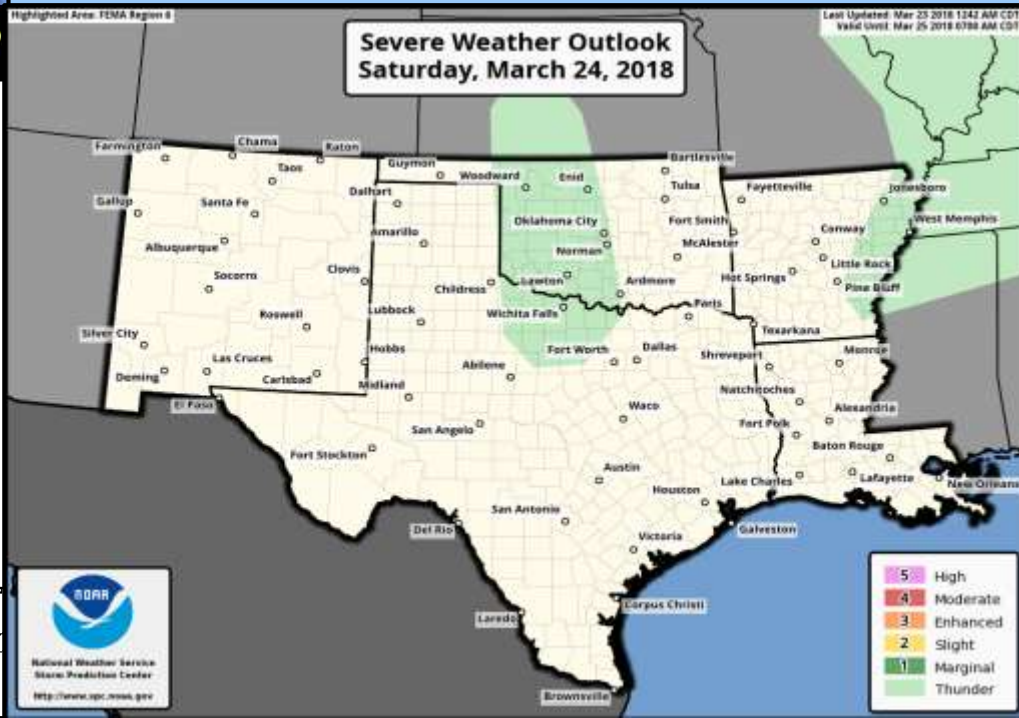
24-HR DAY 2 O/P/P
VALID 12Z SAT MAR 24 2018
THRU 12Z SUN MAR 25 2018
ISSUED: 0733Z FRI MAR 23 2018
FORECASTER: KUBIN-OSTER
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC



Critical Fire Weather conditions SW NW, elevated across E NM, South Plains, TX & OK Panhandles to across the Upper Trans-Pecos.

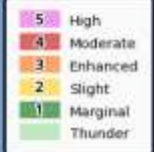
Minor flooding will continue in E TX/LA and AR.

Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS River.

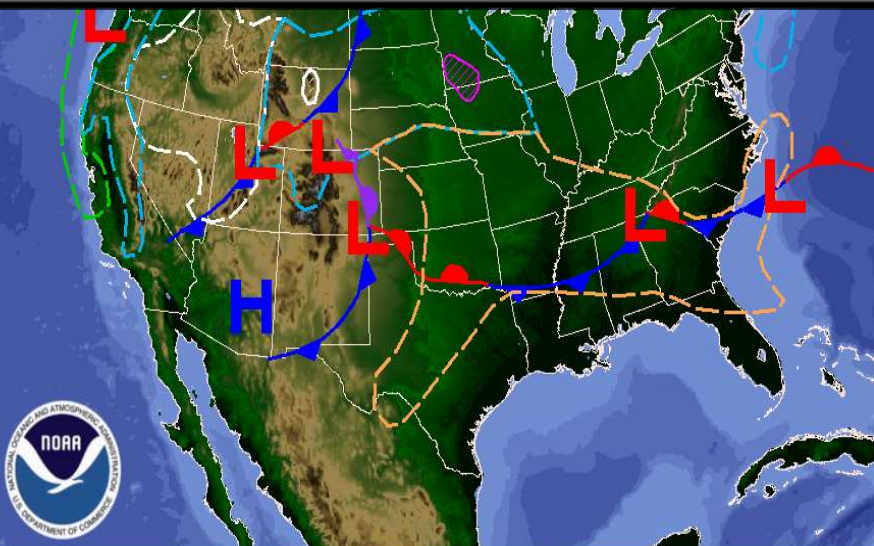


Severe Weather Outlook Saturday, March 24, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 23 2018 1242 AM CDT
Valid until: Mar 25 2018 0700 AM CDT



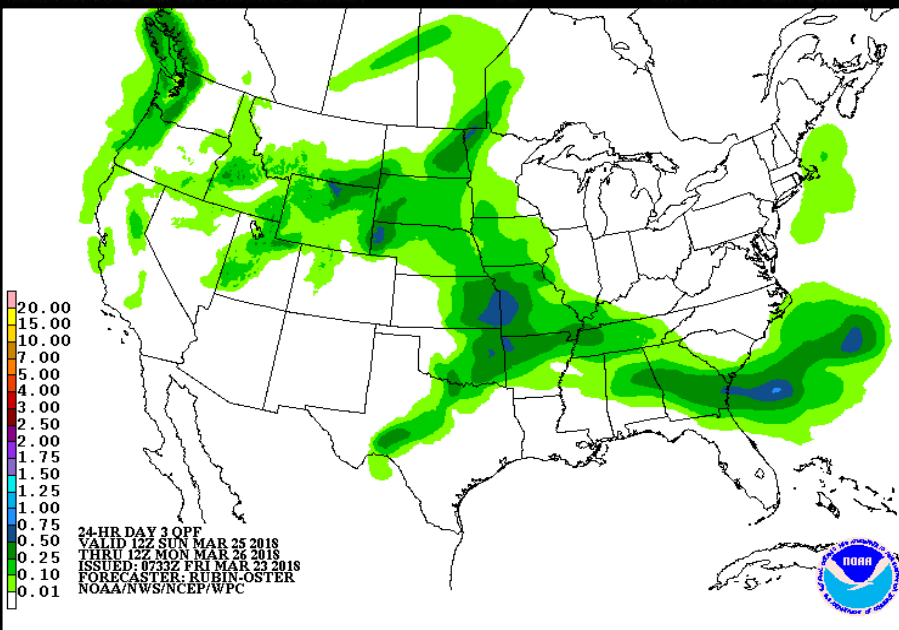
Sunday's Weather



Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Mar 25, 2018, issued 5:11 AM EDT Fri, Mar 23, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

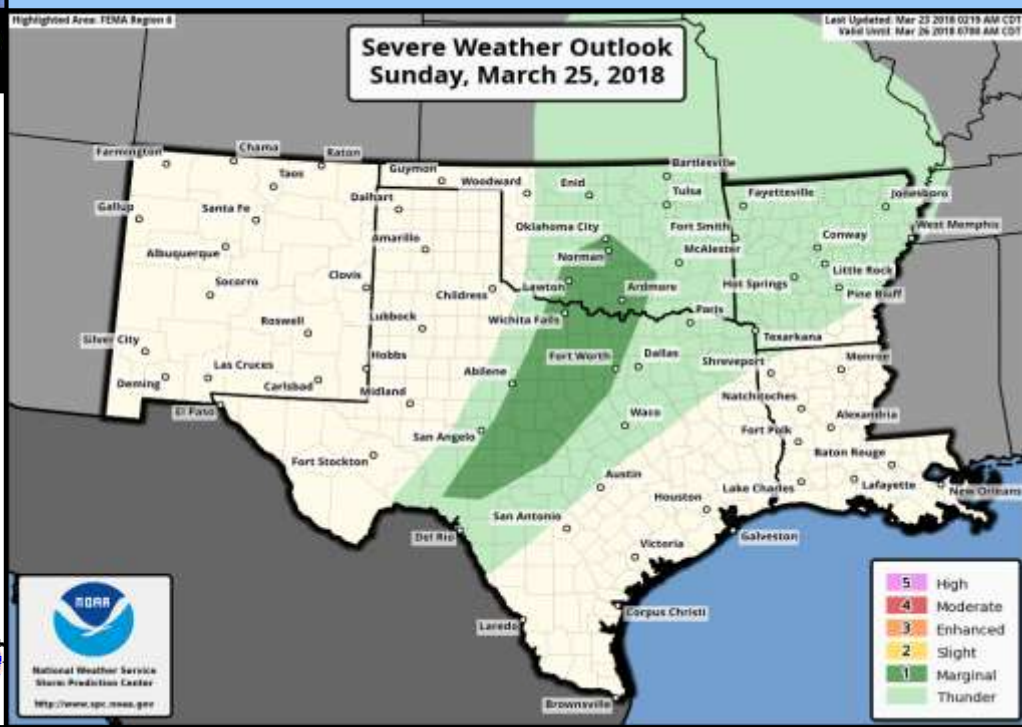


Elevated to Critical Fire Weather Conditions across E NM, far W TX, TX & OK Panhandles.

Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS River.

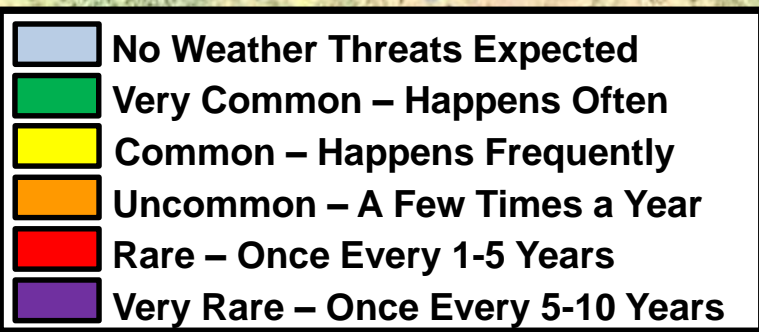
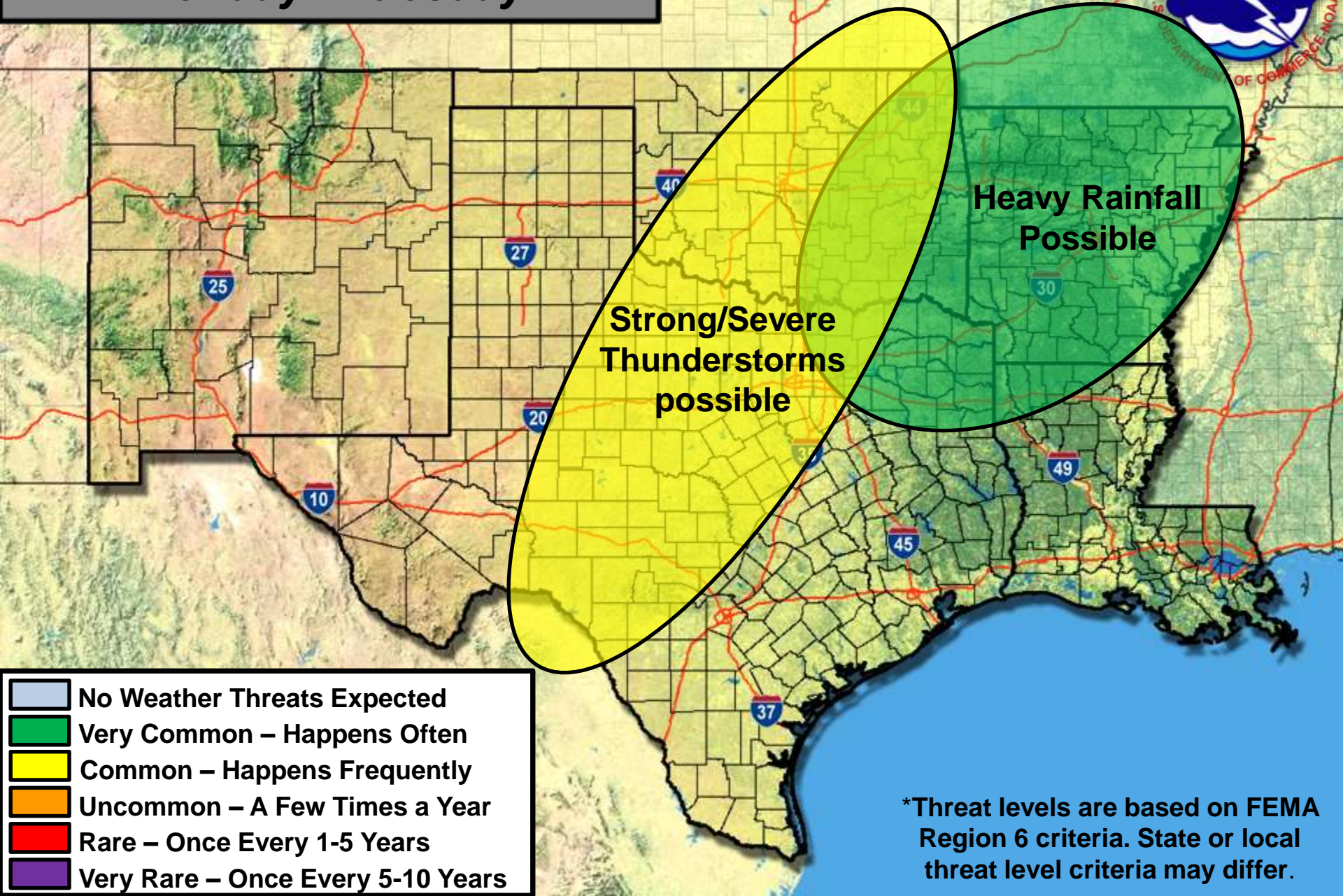
Minor flooding will continue in LA and AR.

A few strong to severe storms are possible from S-Central OK through Central TX; hail is the main threat.



Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

Monday - Tuesday

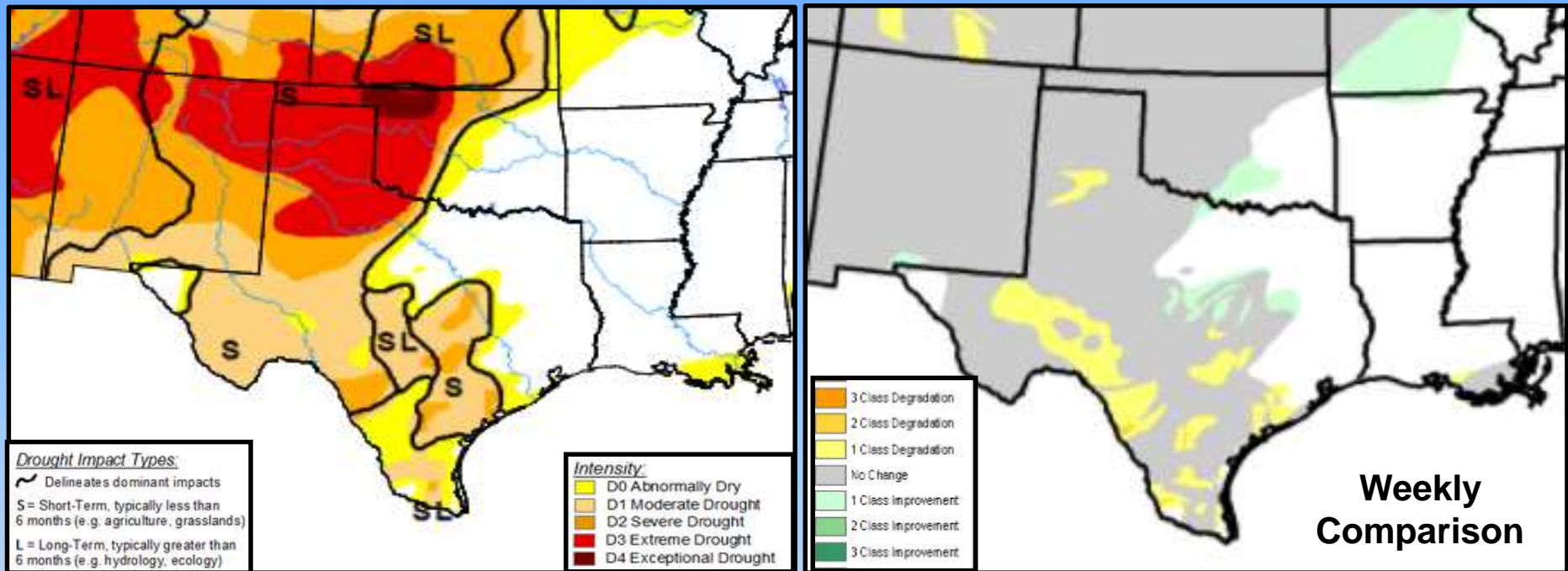


*Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.



Drought Monitor Released March 22, 2018

Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, March 20, 2018



Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)

State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	0.00%	0.00%	25.31%	2.00%
Louisiana	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oklahoma	34.93%	34.93%	1.21%	3.17%
Texas	15.08%	14.19%	0.25%	0.00%
New Mexico	25.60%	25.50%	0.00%	0.00%

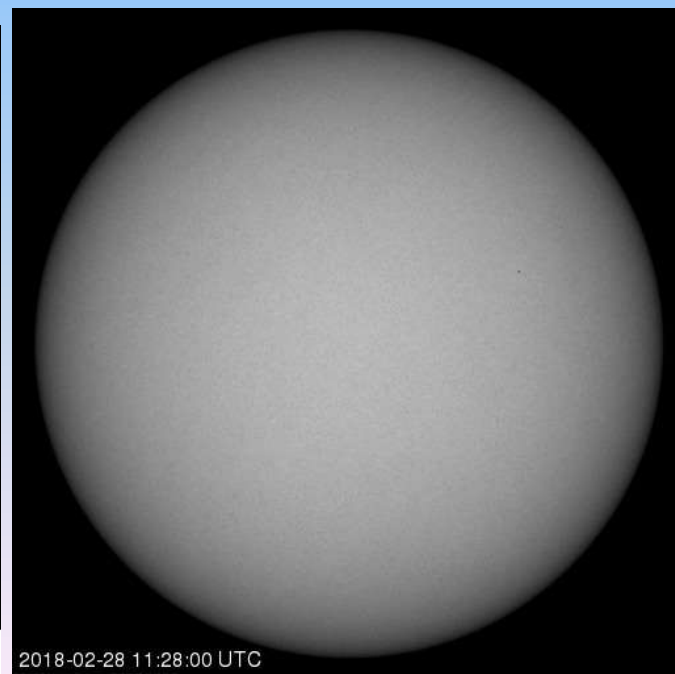
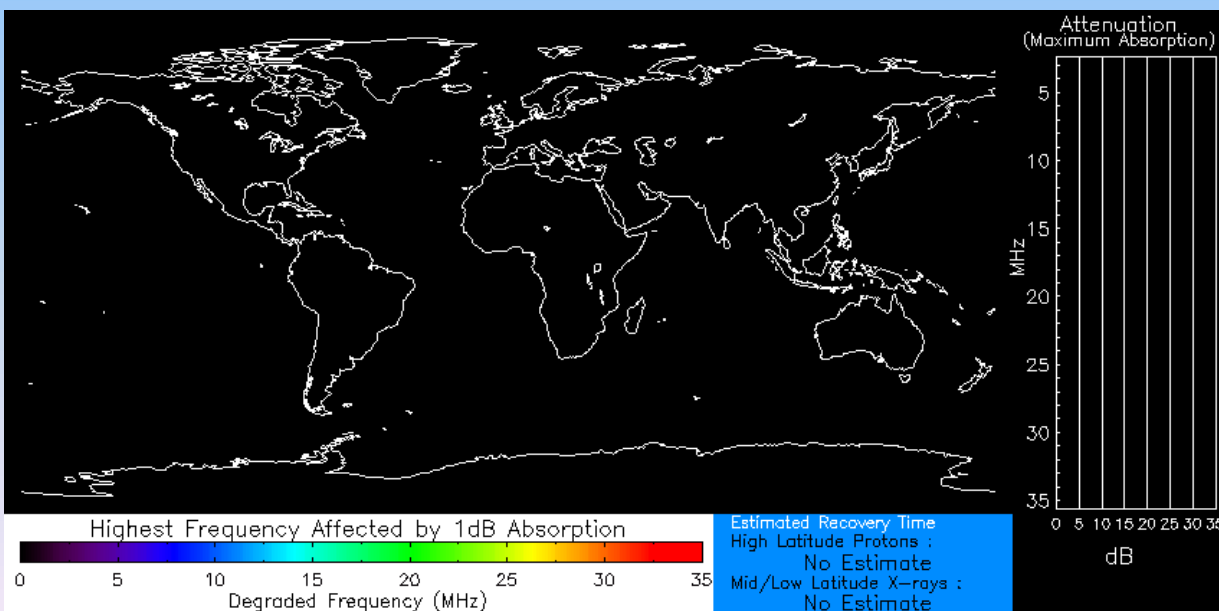
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Geomagnetic Storms	Unsettled (Max Kp = 3)	Minor (G1) Storm (Max Kp = 5)	Minor (G1) Storm (Max Kp = 5)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



2018-02-28 11:28:00 UTC

Normal X-ray Background
Product Valid At : 2018-03-23 12:44 UTC

Normal Proton Background
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

Information provided by:



National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

Phone: (682) 703-3747 ***New Direct Number**
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

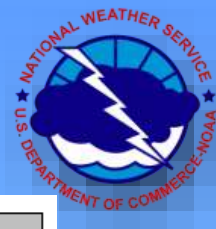
facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSSouthern>

twitter

@NWS_Southern_US https://twitter.com/NWS_Southern_US

The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov.



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	Very Common Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX
Yellow	Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail
Orange	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected
Red	Rare – Once every 1-5 Years Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue
Purple	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms